

RECENT BOOKS

Baker, A. D., III, comp. *The Naval Institute Guide to Combat Fleets of the World, 2000–2001: Their Ships, Aircraft, and Systems*. Annapolis, Md.: Naval Institute Press, 2000. 1,107pp. \$143.96 (U.S. Naval Institute members), \$179.95 (nonmembers); CD-ROM \$119.96/\$149.95

A. D. Baker III has produced *Combat Fleets* every two years since 1978. This may be the first revision to be smaller in scope than its predecessor, by the deletion of maritime police, customs, and scientific fleets without permanently armed vessels or military structures and uniforms. That, of course, is a reflection of the diminution of orders of battle and the stretching-out of acquisitions—trends offset, as discussed by the compiler, by rising costs and corporate turmoil in the international defense industry. New, however, is a rapidly searchable CD-ROM version, with a networkable version available. This edition is current through (as addenda) the reported development of an antisubmarine version of the Russian SS-NX-27; delivery to Israel of the second IKL 800 submarine; the cancelation by the Royal Australian Navy of the proposed *Anzac* (Meko 200) class and the offer by the U.S. Navy of all four

Kidd-class guided missile destroyers to replace them; and the charter for two years by the RAN of the high-speed catamaran transport *Jervis Bay* (a craft that has drawn considerable attention among U.S. Naval War College war-gamers). Index of named ships.



Bourne, J. M. *Who's Who in World War One*. New York: Routledge, 2001. 316pp. \$29.95

Bourne, senior lecturer in modern history at the University of Birmingham, has assembled a reference book of nearly a thousand thumbnail biographies of persons associated with the First World War, from thirty-two nations. He has attempted to balance entries on the leading figures, political and military (Balfour, Haig, Lenin, Ibn Saud); other notable or “representative” soldiers, sailors, and airmen (R. G. B. Keyes, M. V. Frunze, Hermann Göring); scientists, designers, and engineers (Edwin Lutyens, Charles Myers, John Brodie); writers and intellectuals (Rudyard Kipling, Ian Hay, John

Maynard Keynes); names well known at the time, at least in some places and circles, but since then less so (diplomat Cecil Arthur Spring-Rice, photographer William Rider-Rider); and people relatively obscure during the war but later famous for contributions during the war or its immediate aftermath (the poet Wilfred Owen, Tasker Howard Bliss), or thereafter (historian Marc Bloch). Guide to further reading.



Miller, Donald L. *The Story of World War II*. Rev. ed. New York: Simon and Schuster, 2001. 704pp. \$35

Bibliographic entries are normally a straightforward matter, but not for this book. The above, which follows the dustcover, could just as properly have read, “Commager, Henry Steele. . . . Rev. ed. by Donald L. Miller. . . .” According to the copyright page, this is in fact Commager’s 1945 classic one-volume history of World War II, simply “revised, expanded, and updated” by Miller (who is McCracken Professor of History at Lafayette College in Pennsylvania and a biographer of Lewis Mumford). The preface explains, however, that the original has been rewritten wholesale (according to the publisher’s accompanying material, 75 percent of the text is new) and, moreover, effectively reconceived. “Commager was,” writes Miller in the preface, “understandably, too emotionally involved in the war to write an unsparing account of it. He also had to contend with wartime censorship.” That is, Commager’s narrative required updating, and his interview base broadening; where the spine of the 1945 edition (that is, Commager’s) comprises

the “words and works of great men,” the 2001 edition (Miller’s) takes “the fighting man’s point of view.” Further, Miller felt, Commager’s view of the war as one of good versus evil, while fundamentally valid, required nuance in light of aspects of it that have come fully to light only since 1945—such as the experiences of women, African Americans, and Japanese Americans; racial hatred; and the moral “devolution” of total war, manifested in the Allied air campaign, on one hand, and Japanese war crimes and prison camps, on the other. So what do we have here? Whom are we reading? This deeply felt, sometimes harrowing book clearly requires engagement on more than the usual number of levels.



Morison, Samuel Eliot. *History of United States Naval Operations in World War II*. Vol. 1, *The Battle of the Atlantic: September 1939–May 1943*; Vol. 2, *Operations in North African Waters: October 1942–1943*; Vol. 3, *The Rising Sun in the Pacific: 1931–1942*; Vol. 4, *Coral Sea, Midway, and Submarine Actions: May 1942–August 1942*; Vol. 5, *The Struggle for Guadalcanal: August 1942–February 1943*; Vol. 6, *Breaking the Bismarcks Barrier: 22 July 1942–1 May 1944*. Boston: Little, Brown, 1948; repr. Urbana, Ill., and Chicago: Univ. of Chicago Press, 2001. 411pp. \$24.95 (vol. 1); 297pp. \$24.95 (vol. 2); 434pp. \$25.95 (vol. 3); 305pp. \$22.95 (vol. 4); 389pp. \$24.95 (vol. 5); 463pp. \$24.95 (vol. 6)

That is an exceedingly long heading, but this is one of those works for which not much more is necessary. Here are facsimile paperback reprints of the first

six volumes of Samuel Eliot Morison's invaluable, irreplaceable, fifteen-volume *History of United States Naval Operations in World War II*. Knock-off hardcover sets can be had (check on-line), if one's purpose is simply to put a row of handsome bindings on the shelf; these are handy, attractive, and sturdy trade paperbacks meant for people who will actually read them. Presumably—as appears from the publisher's Website—the other nine volumes are forthcoming.



Polmar, Norman. *The Naval Institute Guide to the Ships and Aircraft of the U.S. Fleet*. 17th ed. Annapolis, Md.: Naval Institute Press, 2001. 672pp. \$85

The 2001 "Polmar" is a fitting addition to this prestigious and invaluable series. While no basic reorganizations have been necessary, this edition offers material on major new systems—what was to have been the *Zumwalt*-class (DD 21) land-attack destroyer, the *Virginia*-class (SSN 774) attack submarine, the *San Antonio* (LPD 17) amphibious transport dock, and the Joint Strike Fighter. Longtime users of the series know, however, that much of its value lies in the information it offers on less glamorous sectors of the naval service—Fleet Marine Forces, the Coast Guard, naval auxiliaries, sealift craft—and in reference data on fleet and Navy Department organization. This year's version amply upholds that tradition. In the 2001 *Naval Institute Guide* can be found 840 photographs, fifty-six line drawings, four maps, indices (including by ship name), appendices (force levels, shipbuilding and

transfers, memorials, and the Arsenal Ship), and such last-minute updates as the ordering of the tenth *Nimitz* carrier and the christening of the ninth, USS *Ronald Reagan* (CVN 76).



Roberts, Adam, and Richard Guelff, eds. *Documents on the Law of War*. 3d ed. Oxford, U.K.: Oxford Univ. Press, 2000. 765pp. \$85 (hardcover), \$35 (paperback)

The very fact that this book receives a notice in this journal—which, if not meant for "general readers," is certainly not a law review—is a sign of the times. A decade ago, the *Review* might well have let pass a legal reference work like this as of too specialized interest. That is emphatically no longer the case; as is unmistakable from the articles over the same period in this journal, the law of armed conflict has become an urgent, practical reality for naval officers and policy makers. This new edition of a reference long considered standard in the international-law world will be invaluable to these individuals, or to their staff judge advocates.

The titles alone of the treaties that have been added for this new edition (the second appeared in 1989) suggest the reason why even "lay" naval and defense authorities need at least to know that this reference exists and how to get their hands on a copy: the 1994 Convention on the Safety of UN and Associated Personnel; the 1995 Protocol IV on Blinding Laser Weapons; the 1996 Amended Protocol II on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby-Traps, and Other Devices; the 1997 Ottawa Convention on

antipersonnel land mines; extracts from the 1998 Rome Statute on the International Criminal Court; and the 1999 Cultural Property Protocol. Among the nontreaty instruments new for this edition are the 1994 *San Remo Manual* on armed conflicts at sea, the 1994 Red Cross and United Nations guidelines on the protection of the environment in war, extracts from the 1996 International Court of Justice advisory opinion on nuclear weapons; and the UN secretary-general's 1999 bulletin on the observance of international humanitarian law by UN personnel.

The introduction has been revised, expanded, and updated, as have the lists of states parties, cross-references, and the index and bibliography. A new appendix on electronic sources (on-line and CD-ROM) has been added.



Silverstone, Paul H. *The Sailing Navy 1775–1854*, and *Civil War Navies 1855–1883*. U.S. Navy Warship Series, nos. 1 and 2. Annapolis, Md.: Naval Institute Press, 2001. 128pp. \$38.95 (no. 1); 240pp. \$49.95 (no. 2)

Paul Silverstone, one of the editors of *Warship International*, has set himself in these two reference works the task of resolving a problem posed by the fact that so many books have already been written on both subjects—that is, that so few agree in significant details. He offers both titles as “single comprehensive sources of definitive information,” highlighting instances where differing units of measurement and orthography, changing ship reconfigurations, and absence of records (especially for the Confederate States Navy) make it difficult

or impossible to give reconciled, authoritative figures or information. In both books, entries for each class, type, or one-off unit give years, dimensions, crew, armament, propulsion, and service history, illustrated by period photographs, drawings, or prints, as available.

Both titles begin with essays by W. J. Jurens on the naval ordnance of the respective periods. *Sailing Navy* has chapters for the Continental and state navies, and also the Revenue Cutter Service and Texas Navy, as well as the U.S. Navy proper. For number two of the series, the year range in the title is not a typo; it reflects the fact that the Federal navy did not entirely spring into existence in 1861 or completely disappear in 1865. The author seems to have chosen (he does not mention it) the year the steel-hulled “ABCD” ships were authorized to cut off his coverage. Appendices and bibliography, both works.



Wyld, Lionel D. *Images of America: The Naval War College*. Charleston, S.C.: Arcadia, 1999. 127pp. \$18.99

This little book is an excellent chronicle of the history of one of the most prestigious service schools in the United States. It will enlighten readers on the growth and purpose of the U.S. Naval War College, covering the college's founding in 1884, up to its newest addition, McCarty Little Hall. Accompanying the well written text are many reprints of original photos that include performers, authors, dignitaries, and presidents who have visited the school. A full chapter is dedicated to the Naval War College Museum, and the final chapter

comprises a reference list of the College's presidents.

The author is a director of the Navy League of the United States, Newport

Council, and an associate member of the Naval War College Foundation.

If you are up for a history lesson without the drudgery, this is the perfect book for you.